

**HAMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN'S CONFERENCE ROOM
October 20, 2003 7:00 PM**

PRESENT: Brian C. Warburton, Chairman, Virginia Bridle,
William Sullivan, James Workman, Cliff Pratt
James Barrington, Town Manager
Karen Anderson, Administrative Assistant

I. OLD BUSINESS

1. Town Manager's Report
2003 Tax Rate

The official tax rate for 2003 totals \$17.32.

Exeter Road Railroad Bridge

Mr. Barrington told the Board that he met with Bob Barry on Friday, October 17th and discussed both the Lessard drainage situation and the Exeter Road railroad bridge land acquisition. Mr. Barrington outlined the history of the area and noted that Mr. Lessard is correct when he stated that no meeting was held with him prior to the change in the drainage plans. The original plan to handle the Lafayette Road drainage included a larger retention pond behind Hannaford, but that necessary easements could not be acquired. DOT proposed an alternate system that took the water underground through an enlarged pipe with a closed orifice at the end to serve as retention. The runoff had proceeded down the east side of Lafayette Road, crossing to the west near Marelli Square and the new system crosses onto the west side above the Lessard property. Mr. Barrington said that he has been working with Mr. Hangen to find a solution to the drainage issues and three alternatives have been developed that will be discussed with Mr. Lessard if the Board so authorizes.

The Board agreed that the Town Manager should meet with Mr. Vic Lessard to review options to resolve the drainage issues. Mr. Sullivan asked if the development in the Godfrey Avenue area has contributed to the drainage concerns there. Mr. Barrington said that it was hard to determine, but it was clear that it was a low area and the development of the lot has contributed to the problem and it is clear that the re-routing of the drainage on Lafayette Road has contributed to the problem.

Infrastructure Upgrades

Mr. Barrington reported that the meeting with DES last Tuesday was productive in terms of planning the scope of sewer infrastructure work and the legal arrangement of the contracts with Faye, Spofford & Thorndike in conjunction with the SRF loan program and the State Aid Grants. It is anticipated that the funding process should be very smooth with DES cooperation from the outset. Mr. Barrington told the Board that some of the I/I work will be able to be done on Ashworth Avenue utilizing approximately \$187,000 remaining from the 2000 warrant article for that area.

Mrs. Bridle asked why the warrant article funds were not returned to General Fund. Mr. Barrington said that they were encumbered while awaiting approval of the \$12 million appropriation for the infrastructure upgrades. Mr. Workman asked if the \$187,000 would come off the \$12 million appropriation. Mr. Barrington said that he is looking at those funds as being in addition to the \$12 million. Mr. Workman said that he understood that the \$12 million was inclusive of the work on Ashworth Avenue. Mr. Barrington said that was correct and if all of that appropriation is not needed for the project, they won't be used. Mr. Barrington said that the plan is to see how far the town can go on the work with the funds that are available.

High Street Parking Lot

Attorney Gearreald and the Town Manager met with Attorney Al Casassa to discuss the High Street parking lot and the general situation with the downtown parking. It is the town's plan to host a meeting of any of the affected parties that wish to attend to develop a plan for the High Street Parking Lot in the near future. Attorney Casassa has suggested that the overnight portion of the parking lot be designated "24 hours only" so that vehicles will have to vacate the parking lot daily.

Automated Trash Collection

Mr. Barrington told the Board that he will be meeting with Mr. Hangen and other public works employees that visited Goffstown to discuss their thoughts on the automated trash collection system that is in place there. Mr. Barrington said that Mr. Hangen understands that this system will not work at the beach at this time and is interested in utilizing it uptown.

Acceptance vote on Marshland Donation – Barteau

The public hearings required by RSA 41:14-(a) have been completed in regard to the acceptance by the town of the donation of marshland located at Map 127 Lot 001 from the Estate of Mildred Barteau.

Mr. Sullivan MOTIONED that the Board of Selectmen accept with appreciation the donation of Map 127 Lot 001 from the Estate of Mildred Barteau. The deed is to be prepared by the owner at no cost to the town.

Mrs. Bridle SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

2003 Warrant Articles

Mrs. Bridle requested a status report on the warrant articles that were approved at the 2003 Town Meeting.

Public Works Operating Procedures

Mrs. Bridle asked about the status of the Manager's review of the operating procedures for Public Works. Mr. Barrington said that he has been reviewing them and will provide a report to the Board.

Budget Committee

Mrs. Bridle reminded the Town Manager that the Budget Committee has requested current vehicle lists for the departments and a spread-sheet of the Debt Schedule.

Retirement Rates

Mr. Sullivan said that he has recently learned that the NH Retirement rates for employers may increase 35% effective July 1, 2004. Mr. Barrington will try to confirm the rates.

Gazebo

Mr. Warburton asked what the status of the acceptance of the gazebo was. Mr. Barrington said that the first of the two required public hearings is on October 27, 2003.

Stan Brown Easement

Mr. Barrington told the Board that Mr. Hangen has prepared some preliminary drawings of the sidewalk and curb for Marelli Park and while the work is not ideal, it is workable. The plans are consistent with what had been discussed with Mr. Brown and the easement details will be finalized.

District Court

Mr. Workman asked about the status of the District Court relocation. Mr. Barrington said that he has not heard anything since the meeting he had with Commissioner Hill. Representative O'Neil has assured the Manager that he will keep him informed of the status.

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. NHEP Grant Application – Wetlands Assessment of Taylor River Area

The Board reviewed the proposal from the Conservation Commission for a grant through the New Hampshire Estuaries Project to assess and map the wetlands in the Taylor River Watershed. This project will extend into Hampton Falls and the Board is being asked to partner with Hampton Falls on this grant. The total grant is \$12,196 with Hampton Falls providing the cash matching funds.

Mr. Sullivan MOTIONED that the Board of Selectmen authorize the application of the grant from NHEP in the amount of \$12,196, partnered with the Town of Hampton Falls. The public hearing for acceptance will be held on November 3, 2003.

Mr. Workman SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

IV. MINUTES

The minutes of October 13, 2003 were reviewed and approved as written.

Mr. Workman MOTIONED that the Board of Selectmen meet in a non-public session at the conclusion of this meeting under RSA 91-A:3 for personnel.

Mrs. Bridle SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Mr. Workman MOTIONED that the Board of Selectmen meet in a non-public session on October 27th at 6:30 PM with the Town Manager under RSA 91-A:3 for an annual evaluation.

Mrs. Bridle SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

The regular meeting on October 27, 2003 will begin at 7:30 PM.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Sullivan MOTIONED that the meeting be adjourned. (7:30 PM)

Mr. Workman SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Chairman